

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 TRSE-00

SS-15 L-03 /059 W

-----270812Z 061461 /17

R 261455Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7035

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 0708

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SA

SUBJ: JIDDA PORT SITREP

REF: 76 JIDDA 7427

1. RECENT ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 84 SHIPS ARE IN JIDDA HARBOR WAITING FOR BERTHING. WAITING TIME HAS BEEN CUT TO LESS THAN 100 DAYS, ACCORDING TO PORT OFFICIALS.

2. THE RED SEA SHIPPING CONFERENCE (UK-CONTINENT) HAS LOWERED THE SURCHARGE FOR JIDDA FROM 75 TO 35 PERCENT. PORT OFFICIALS WANTED FURTHER CUTS, BUT CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THEY WILL NOT LOWER THE RATE UNTIL FURTHER MEETINGS ARE HELD NEXT MONTH.

3. HELICOPTER OFFLOADING CONTINUES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY, WITH PEAK DAYS OF MORE THAN 3000 TONS RECORDED.

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4. LST OPERATIONG HAS RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES WITH REMOVAL OF GOODS FROM ITS STORAGE AREA. DAILY OFFLOADING RATES VARY FROM 4000-8000 TONS PER DAY, WITH WIDE DISCREPANCIES FROM DAY TO DAY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LSTS ARE NOT LIMITED TO VEHICLE OR BAGGED CEMENT OFFLOADING. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO OFFLOAD ANY TYPE OF CARGO AT THE DIRECTION OF THE PORT AUTHORITY.

5. RO-RO OPERATIONS HAVE NOT INCREASED IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, WITH THE PORT HANDLING APPROXIMATELY 95-100 RO-ROS CARRYING 120,000 TONS PER MONTH. LOCAL SHIPPERS REPORT AN EXPECTED PRICE INCREASE IN RO-RO RATES WILL TAKE PLACE SOON.

6. PORT AUTHORITY RECENTLY ANNOUNCED APPROVAL OF A BRITISH FIRM'S PROPOSAL TO PUT TOGETHER A TEMPORARY PORT APPROXIMATELY 20 KILOMETERS NORTH OF JIDDA SEAPORT. THE FIRM WILL MAKE ONE LONG FLOATING PIER FROM BARGES, AND THEN USE A NUMBER OF OTHER BARGES FOR LIGHTERAGE.

7. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE FEASIBILITY OF THIS PORT WITH SEVERAL PORT EXPERTS IN JIDDA AND RIYADH, AND ALL EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM AS TO ITS UTILITY. THEY AGREED THAT A MECHANIZED CONTAINER OPERATION FACILITY WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE.

8. IT NOW APPEARS THAT PLANS FOR AN ELEVEN BERTH PORT TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY MOBIL OIL COMPANY HAVE BEEN SCRAPPED. (SEE REFTTEL)
PORTER

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NNN

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